

FCC Media Ownership Rules Changes

I am writing to you today to reply to the public comments on Docket No.02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

To promote competition, diversity and local content, the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules and impose stricter public interest requirements. The proposed changes will greatly limit public exposure to news, community programming, and content that is critical to an informed citizenry.

The studies commissioned by the FCC appear to be flawed and incomplete. In recent years, similar FCC actions have resulted in a drastic drop-off on the amount and quality of local programming. The increased economies of scale that the very largest media concerns will be able to avail themselves of, will further crowd out access to local and/or independent media outlets. The unintentioned result will be a lessening of opinion and discussion on issues of importance, and leave our 90 percent of the media in the hands of a few mega-corporations. That can't possibly encourage the pluralism and diversity that has made the US so great.

THE PUBLIC INTEREST WILL BEST BE SERVED BY PRESERVING THE MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES IN QUESTION, IN THIS PROCEEDING.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Commission to hold hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.

Thanks, and we're counting on you to help us protect our continuing access to information and programming of interest to our communities...

Steven A. Hammersly